MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The price of local rice has not been fixed.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR : May I know from the Government that by fixing the price of the local paddy without fixing the price of the local rice, people are resorting to all sorts of unscrupulous methods to see that the paddy is converted into rice and then sold at Rs. 7 and 8 per para.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Government are considering that problem and trying to see that the price of local rice is fixed and controlled in relation to the price of local paddy.

Purchase and distribution of Paddy.

3. * MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Food Grains Purchasing Officer of the Government is directed to pay the price of paddy to its owner in ready cash at the time of the purchase ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : No specific direction in the matter has been issued. Necessary funds have been placed to the credit of the Purchasing Officers and payments on account of purchases will be made by the Officers at the time of purchase.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM : May I know whether any quantity of paddy has been purchased so far ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : No, Sir.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : In view of the fact that harvest in Nanjanad area has already taken place, will the Government be pleased to entrust the necessary funds for the purchase of the paddy ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Funds have already been set apart.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : But the local officers say that they are not in possession of funds.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : No. It is not correct.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : May I know the names of those officers ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The Food Grains Purchasing Officer.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : Has he been authorised to disburse that fund to the local officers for purchasing paddy locally ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Certainly. Tahsildars are the persons who are making the purchases and the advances are made to the credit of the Food Grains Purchasing Officer. Nearly Rs. 9 lakhs have been advanced to the Food Grains Purchasing Officer and he has prepared a distribution statement so far as the Tahsildars are concerned.

PRESIDENT : Honourable member may be assured that this Government are willing to pledge all their resources for the purchase of rice and tapioca with a view to meet the present situation and if there is any misconception or misunderstanding on the part of the people, the officers may be assured that the funds at their disposal for the purchase of those food stuffs will be augmented by Government whenever necessary. Of course, it should be realised that in an extensive area there may be some delay. But the officers will be put in possession of ample funds.

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MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: I was told by the Tahsildars in Nanjanad consisting of the taluks of Tovala, Agastisvaram and Vilavankod that they are not in possession of funds to make immediate purchase.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA' G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That information is incorrect.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Rs. 30,000 have been allotted to Tovala and Rs. 50,000 to Agastisvaram taluks as a first instalment.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: May I know when the funds were given?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: About two days ago.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the Government intend purchasing paddy and rice directly or through some intermediary?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Directly by the Government.

Import of rice and paddy.

4. ✱ **MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI:** Will the Government be pleased to state the total quantity of rice and paddy expected to be imported from outside during the year 1118 M. E.?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The quantity that can be imported will depend upon the import quota that may be allotted to this State from time to time.

Price of Paddy.

5. ✱ **MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether in fixing a maximum price of Rs. 1¼ per para of paddy throughout the State, they have taken into consideration the maximum price in any definite area and the costs of transport from that place to other areas?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know whether there is any maximum fixed for transport charges?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It will depend upon the distance.

Price of paddy and tapioca.

6. ✱**MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to increase the price of paddy and tapioca produced in the State;

(*b*) if so, the action taken on it; and

(*c*) if not, the reason why it is not increased?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (*a*).

(*c*) Because the prices now fixed are considered reasonable.

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know why it is not proposed to raise the price?

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